## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. **(Currently amended)** A composition of functional additives useful for incorporating in water as a dip for the preservation of cut apple pieces comprising ascorbic acid and calcium ions, wherein the molar ratio between the ascorbic acid and the calcium ions is between about 2.8:1 to about 4.0:1, and wherein the composition further comprises magnesium ions, and the weight ratio between the calcium ions and magnesium ions is between about 5.4:1 and about 11.3:1.

2. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio is between about 2.8:1 to about 3.5:1.

3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Currently amended)** A composition according to claim 1[[3]], wherein magnesium ions are derived from magnesium chloride hexahydrate or anhydrous magnesium chloride.

5. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the calcium ions are derived from one or more of the group consisting essentially of calcium chloride dihydrate, calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate.

6. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium chloride dihydrate.

7. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium hydroxide.

8. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium carbonate.

9. **(Original)** A composition according to claim 1 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium chloride dihydrate, calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate.

10. (**Original**) A composition according to claim 1 including sodium citrate or citric acid as a pH adjuster.

11. (**Original**) A solution of functional additives useful for the preservation of cut apple pieces comprising:

a. ascorbic acid having a concentration between about 5.0% and 9% (w/w/); and

b. calcium ions having a concentration between about 0.4% and 0.68% (w/w);

c. water;

wherein the molar ratio between ascorbic acid and the calcium ions is between about 2.8:1 and 4.0:1.

12. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the molar ratio between ascorbic acid and calcium ions is between about 2.8:1 and about 3.5:1.

13. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the solution further comprises magnesium ions having a concentration between 0.06% and 0.10% (w/w).

14. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 13 wherein the magnesium ions are derived from magnesium chloride hexahydrate or anhydrous magnesium chloride.

15. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the calcium ions are derived from one or more of the group consisting essentially of calcium chloride dihydrate, calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate.

16. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium chloride dihydrate.

17. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium hydroxide.

18. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium carbonate.

19. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the calcium ions are derived from calcium chloride dihydrate, calcium hydroxide and calcium carbonate.

20. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 11 wherein the pH is adjusted with citric acid or sodium citrate.

21. (**Original**) A solution of functional additives useful for the preservation of cut apple pieces comprising water and about 5.6% to 9% (w/w) ascorbic acid, about 0.3% to 1% (w/w) calcium chloride dehydrate, and about 0.06% to 0.5% (w/w) calcium hydroxide dissolved in the water, the solution having a pH of 3.5 to 4.5.

22. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 21 further including about 0.5% to 1.0% (w/w) calcium carbonate.

23. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 21 including about 0.5% (w/w) magnesium chloride.

24. (**Original**) A solution according to claim 21, wherein the pH is adjusted with citric acid or sodium citrate.

25-32. (**Cancelled**)